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as the rendezvous of the Sons of Liberty, the Committees of Safety and of Correspondence and as a depository for arms and the headquarters for recruiting officers.

The stage-coach gave the crowning glory to the tavern; and the driver became, in his turn, as important a character as the landlord. There can be no more picturesque illustration of country life than the arrival of the mail announced by the distant horn and attended by a general turn-out of the village folk to see the stage and get the news. But alas! that glory was short-lived, and the locomotive, which gave us the "depot," sounded the death-knell of the tavern.

The author would have aided students had he given an occasional foot-note stating by whom certain letters and diaries were written. The margin is wider than most readers would care for. The index is good, but not quite complete. Some of the tales in Chapter VI., though interesting, might have been abbreviated.

EDWARD G. PORTER.

The Statutes at Large of Pennsylvania from 1682 to 1801. Compiled under the Authority of the Act of May 19, 1887, by James T. Mitchell and Henry Flanders, Commissioners. Vol. II., 1700 to 1712. (State Printer of Pennsylvania. 1896. Pp. 676.)

AFTER ten years of labor the first volume of what promises to be by far the most complete of all the state Statutes at Large has been issued and will be a welcome addition to the collections hitherto made by Virginia, South Carolina and Massachusetts. An earlier volume, as indicated by the title-page of the present one, is yet to come, which will include, so the prefatory note announces, all statute laws from the foundation of the colony to October, 1700, "with the charter, the action of the crown upon those laws, the unpublished commissions and secret instructions to the several deputy governors, which explain many of the difficulties they labored under in assenting to the enactments of the Assembly; and the various essential documents on which our colonial legislation was fundamentally based," the publication of which "is deferred with the view of obtaining some additional matter and for the purpose of inserting a general survey of the work, which latter can only be prepared after all the subsequent volumes are in type."

Too much praise cannot be given to the execution of this work and especially to the portion falling to the share of Mr. Charles R. Hildeburn. To each law he has affixed its history, showing when it was passed, when repealed, and what law took its place, with much other material of the greatest value. A single example will illustrate the thoroughness with which this work has been performed:

"Passed November 27, 1700. This act is said by Weiss and Brockden, Galloway, Dallas and Smith to be supplied by an act of 10 Queen Anne, of June 12, 1712, which Dallas more specifically indicates (in a footnote) as his Chapter 186. The latter, our Chapter 185, applies only

to Philadelphia, and does not touch upon the subject of the third section of this act.

“It does not appear to have been submitted to the consideration of the Crown in 1705 (see Appendix I., Section II.), and in the editions of 1714, 1728 and 1742, it is marked ‘repealed.’ The minutes of the Assembly are missing from October 27, 1701, to May 24, 1704, and it is probable that this act was repealed by a resolution of the Assembly passed within that period, as was done on October 17, 1701, in the cases of Chapters 76 and 77.”

Nor does this history of each act include all the relating material, for over a hundred pages of appendices are added, made up of extracts from the Journal of the Board of Trade, Orders in Council, opinions of the royal attorney-general, minutes of the Provincial Council, letters of the royal governors, and other material of the greatest possible value for a thorough understanding of the colony laws.

A survey of the statutes reveals little which makes Pennsylvania distinctive from her sister colonies, if we except the act granting liberty of conscience to all Trinitarians, and another taxing the importation of negroes, originally enacted at the rate of forty shillings the poll, but quickly raised to twenty pounds, equivalent then to a prohibition, though even Quaker altruism was forced to throw a sop to the commercial classes by permitting the importation of negroes in bond, so as to leave to Philadelphia its share of the slave trade. Otherwise the laws are typical of the times rather than of the province; measures repressing duelling, swearing, Sabbath-breaking, health-drinking and most forms of amusements being noticeable, together with the economic cure-all of new ratios for coins, and the inevitable tender laws which always followed in its footsteps. It is interesting to note that a favorite form of tax was the poll-tax, which otherwise, except in New England, was always an unpopular form of collecting money, suggesting a possible relation between the greater democracy of those especial colonies and the tax now-a-days considered the reverse of democratic.¹

PAUL LEICESTER FORD.

History of Proprietary Government in Pennsylvania. By WILLIAM ROBERT SHEPHERD, Ph.D. [Studies in History, Economics and Public Law, Columbia University, Vol. VI.] (New York. 1896. Pp. iv, 601.)

WE have here an elaborate study of the proprietary system which existed in Pennsylvania from the grant to William Penn, in March, 1680-81, to the overthrow of the royal control and colonial organization, in July, 1776. The designation “proprietary government” is to some extent misleading; strictly speaking, there never was in Pennsylvania any real government by a proprietor, unless we choose to except the two periods of two years each which Penn spent on the soil, 1682 to 1684

¹ Vol. III. (1712-1724) has also appeared.